

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claim 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 are pending in the application.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. 5,632,023 (White). Further, the Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,450 (Tsushima). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 are patentable over White, Johnson and Tsushima for at least the following reasons.

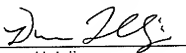
The rejected claims are patentable over White and Tsushima at least because those references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the elements recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 5, 12 and 19, for example (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein each functional unit has a private control unit for controlling function of an associated functional unit, including controlling a number of repetitions of execution of the function, and each functional unit is adapted to execute operations in an autonomous manner under control of the private control unit associated therewith so that access to an external instruction memory is reduced, including transfer of control to the control means upon completion of an operation included in the loop and execution of instructions of a subsequent loop instead of being stalled or executing a no-operation instruction, wherein each private control unit includes an instruction memory configured to hold one operation or a sequence of operations, and a counter indicating how often the one operation or the sequence of operations still has to be executed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 3 and 10 are allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5-9, 11 and 13-14 are allowable at least because they depend from independent claims 1, 3 and 10, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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